USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Fact Sheet

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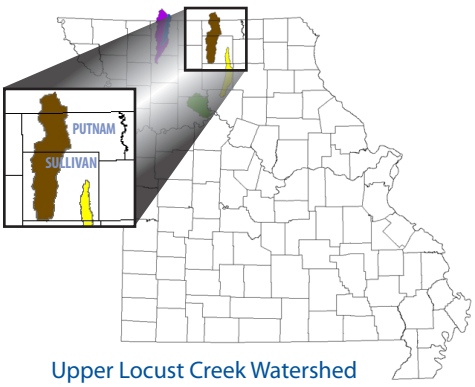
Upper Locust Creek Watershed Project

Introduction

This watershed project would continue completion of the proposed project by constructing 10 small flood water retarding structures under three federal contracts at an estimated total cost of $1.32 million.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



Upper Locust Creek Watershed (in brown) is located in Putnam and Sullivan Counties of Missouri.

Project Description

- **Location:** Putnam and Sullivan Counties, Missouri, extending into Iowa
- **Size:** 238,700 acres
- **Start Date:** September 2009
- **Estimated Completion Date:** September 2010

The Upper Locust Creek Watershed Project plan consists of accelerated land treatment for cropland erosion control, and construction of a series of single purpose floodwater retarding structures. To date, 81 of 297 single purpose flood water retarding structures have been completed or are under construction in Missouri.

Partners

- Locust Creek Watershed District
- Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Putnam County Commission
- Sullivan County Commission

Benefits

This project will have a major environment effect on the watershed problems of soil erosion and floodwater damage.

The entire watershed plan is estimated to:

- estimated 3600 residents directly or indirectly benefited in the watershed
- reduce floodwater damage to 29,600 acres
- provide grade stabilization to degrading stream channels
- reduce overbank deposition of sediment on 2,800 acres of floodplain
- reduce wetland deterioration caused from accelerated sediment deposition in floodplains
- improve water quality by reductions in turbidity and agricultural chemicals
- provide net beneficial effects on quality and quantity of wildlife habitat
- reduce threats to major highways in the watershed that cross or intercept the 100-year floodplain in numerous locations.

Economic Opportunities

An estimated $695,000 in average annual benefits has been realized through FY 2008 from the installation of the 81 structures in Missouri. Project funding would provide additional environmental benefits and immediate contracts available for the local construction industries and associated businesses within the project's community.